

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 581

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Kimberley Locke on her most impressive run to the Top Three in Fox's *American Idol* competition.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as Tennesseans of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Kimberley Locke, who was one of the top three finalists on this year's *American Idol* series; and

WHEREAS, in a State where talented musicians can be found at nearly every turn, Kimberley distinguished herself with a weekly display of one of the most elegant and powerful voices in the nation; and

WHEREAS, this year's *American Idol* competition began with upwards of 70,000 contestants from throughout the United States; likening her style to Etta James and Aretha Franklin, Kimberley wowed the judges with her rendition of the Judy Garland classic, "Over the Rainbow"; and

WHEREAS, Simon Cowell, the most frank of *American Idol*'s judges, assured her that she had the voice to go far on the show; throughout the contest, she proved him correct,

performing such songs as "New York State of Mind" and "I Heard it Through the Grapevine" with a grace that belied her twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Kimberley's soulful voice captured the hearts of people across the nation, and catapulted her into the top three; unfortunately, the whims of voters cut short her magnificent run, and she was eliminated from the competition on May 14, 2003; and

WHEREAS, a native of Middle Tennessee, Kimberley Locke has been singing since she was a child; and

WHEREAS, a 1996 graduate of Gallatin High School, where she was elected to the Homecoming Court, she has been performing for many years with such illustrious groups as the Tennessee All-State Chorus, the Gallatin High School Performers, Shadz of U, and the Key Stewart United Methodist Church Angels of Praise and Mass Majestic Choirs; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Kimberley has performed for local civic, community, and church events, and has won numerous talent events throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, she graduated from Belmont University in 2001, with a degree in Business Administration; after completing her *American Idol* experience, she plans to earn a law degree; and

WHEREAS, along with her family, friends, and countless fans throughout Tennessee and the nation, Kimberley has a special group of fans at Clyde Riggs Elementary School in Portland, where she taught last year as an interim kindergarten teacher; the school has dedicated a wall outside of the music teacher's room to Kimberley, featuring pictures and news clippings of the local star; and

WHEREAS, Kimberley epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Kimberley Locke for her tremendous talent and her dedication to achieving greatness; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Kimberley Locke for her stellar run to
the Top Three on *American Idol*, thank her for so ably representing the State of Tennessee, and
extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.